

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A hand cart for lifting and transporting a container with a tapering neck at its upper end, the hand cart comprising: a base frame having at least one wheel means for movement; a cradle for engaging the bottom of the container, the cradle being supported by the base frame; an elongated bar being defined by an upper end and a lower end; the lower end being securely attached to the base frame and the cradle; an arm structure being defined by a first edge, an opposite second edge, a side edge, an opposing side edge, and an upper surface overlaying an underside portion; the first edge being mounted to the exterior of the bar at an intermediate point, the intermediate point being at a position relative to the height of the container from the base frame, the arm structure extending outwardly from the first edge along its horizontal axis to a set distance to the opposite second edge; a bumper mechanism integrated into the opposite second edge at the set distance therein, the bumper mechanism for contacting the neck of the container ~~thereby~~ causing the container to tilt forward as the container is loaded onto the base frame; a catch mechanism situated a predetermined distance from the opposite second edge within the arm structure; a means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism with the top of the container; and a hand assembly being mounted upon the upper end of the bar such that the hand-cart can be moved into a forward and backward position upon the wheel means.
2. (currently amended) The handcart of claim 1 wherein the catch mechanism

further comprises: a ~~recess~~ internal cavity situated within the underside portion of the arm structure; the recess dimensioned to accommodate the circumference of the top of the container; and the ~~recess~~ internal cavity being situated from the first edge of the arm structure at a position which allows the top of the container to align directly underneath the ~~recess~~ internal cavity as the bottom of the container is placed on the base frame.

3. (currently amended) The handcart of claim 2 wherein the catch mechanism further comprises: the internal cavity extending through the upper surface of the arm structure and being bounded by the opposing second edge forming an orifice situated within the of the arm structure; the orifice having dimensions to accommodate the circumference of the top of the container; and the orifice being situated from the first edge of the arm structure at a position which allows the top of the container to align directly underneath the orifice as the bottom of the container is placed on the base frame.

4. (original) The handcart of claim 1 wherein the hand assembly further comprises: a pair of parallel spaced apart support members; the pair of support members each having an upper and lower end; a grip member connected to each upper end; and each lower end mounted upon the upper end of the bar member.

5. (original) The handcart of claim 1 wherein the means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism further comprises: a lever mechanism situated

fit for contacting ~~the curvature of~~ the neck of the container.

11. (original) The hand cart of claim 1 wherein the bumper mechanism is the opposite second edge of the arm structure.

12. (original) The handcart of claim 1 wherein the means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism further comprises: a lever mechanism situated at the upper end of the bar; and the lever operably connected through the interior of the bar to the first edge of the arm structure; the first edge of the arm structure being hingedly connected to exterior of the elongated bar such that the lever mechanism can raise and lower the arm structure along at least a thirty degree angle path to respectively engage and disengage the catch mechanism with the top of the container.

13. (original) The handcart of claim 1 wherein the means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism further comprises: a lever mechanism situated at the lower end of the bar; and the lever mechanism operably connected through the interior of the bar to the first edge of the arm structure; the first edge of the arm structure being hingedly connected to exterior of the elongated bar such that the lever mechanism can raise and lower the arm structure along at least a thirty degree angle path to respectively engage and disengage the catch mechanism with the top of the container.

14. (original) The handcart of claim 1 wherein the means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism further comprises: a lever mechanism situated at the lower end of the bar; and the lever mechanism operably connected at an

intermediate point to the upper surface of the arm structure; the first edge of the arm structure being hingedly connected to exterior of the elongated bar such that the lever mechanism can raise and lower the arm structure along at least a thirty degree angle path to respectively engage and disengage the catch mechanism with the top of the container.

15. (currently amended) The handcart of claim 1 wherein the catch mechanism further comprises: an U-shape slotted hook situated within the arm structure; and the U-shape slotted hook dimensioned to accommodate the circumference of the top of the container the U-shaped hook extending ~~laterally~~ vertically from the side edge or the opposing side edge of the arm structure at an intermediate position which allows the hook to engage the neck of the container as the bottom of the container is placed on the base frame.

16. (currently amended) The handcart of claim 15 wherein the means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism further comprises: the first edge of the arm structure being rotatably connected in a horizontal direction to exterior of the elongated bar such that the arm structure can rotate clockwise and counterclockwise along at least a thirty degree angle path to respectively engage and disengage the catch mechanism with the top of the container.

17. (original) The handcart of claim 16 wherein the elongated bar member has a cylindrical shape.

18. (original) The hand cart of claim 1 wherein the elongated bar is formed from a sheet of rigid metal material with its vertical edges bent backward to form an opened back casing.

19. (original) The hand cart of claim 1 wherein the elongated bar is a hollow rectangular casing formed from a rigid metal material.

20. (original) A method of lifting and transporting a container from an upright position, the method comprising: a. providing a hand cart with a base frame supporting a cradle connected to an elongated bar with a handle mounted upon the top, an arm structure with a catch mechanism and a bumper mechanism, and lever mechanism operable connected to the arm structure; b. placing the hand-cart with the elongated bar member perpendicular to the floor and parallel to the container with the arm structure aligned perpendicular to the top of the container; c. placing a hand on the hand assembly; d. placing the corresponding foot against the rear side of the bottom of the bar member; e. pushing the hand assembly forward such that the bumper mechanism of the arm structure contacts the neck of the container tilting the bottom of the container at least thirty degrees; f. simultaneously with step e, pushing the base frame forward with the corresponding foot such that the base frame slides underneath the bottom of the container and the cradle engages the bottom of the container; g. pulling the lever mechanism to raise the arm structure to allow the container to sit upright on the base frame with the top of

container aligned directly underneath the catch mechanism; and h. releasing the lever mechanism for the catch mechanism to engage the top the container.

21. (currently amended) A hand cart for lifting and transporting a container from an upright position, the hand cart comprising: a base frame having a rigid horizontal plate member supported by at least one wheel means for movement; a cradle for engaging the bottom of the container, the cradle being supported by the horizontal plate member of the base frame; an elongated bar being defined by an upper end and a lower end; the lower end being securely attached to the base frame and the cradle; an arm structure being defined by a first edge and an opposite second edge, the first edge being mounted to the exterior of the bar at an intermediate point, the intermediate point being at a position relative to the height of the container from the base frame, the arm structure extending outwardly from the first edge along its horizontal axis to a set distance to the opposite second edge; a bumper mechanism integrated into the opposite second edge at the set distance such that the neck of the container is contacted as the container is loaded onto the base frame; a catch mechanism within the arm structure; the catch mechanism further comprising: an orifice situated within the of the arm structure and bounded by the opposite second edge; the orifice having dimensions to accommodate the circumference of the top of the container; and the orifice being situated from the first edge of the arm structure at a position which allows the top of the container to align directly underneath the orifice as the bottom of the container is placed on the base frame; a lever mechanism situated at the upper end

of the bar; the lever operably connected through the interior of the bar to the first edge of the arm structure; the first edge of the arm structure being partially slideably mounted upon the exterior of the elongated bar wherein the lever mechanism can vertically lower and lift the arm structure to respectively engage and disengage the catch mechanism with the top of the container; and a hand assembly being mounted upon the upper end of the bar such that the hand-cart can be moved into a forward and backward position upon the wheel means.

22. (new) A hand cart for lifting and transporting a container with a tapering neck at its upper end, the hand cart comprising:

a base frame having at least one wheel means for movement; a cradle for engaging the bottom of the container, the cradle being supported by the base frame; an elongated bar being defined by an upper end and a lower end; the lower end being securely attached to the base frame and the cradle; an arm structure being defined by a first edge, an opposite second edge, a side edge, an opposing side edge, and an upper surface overlaying an underside portion; the first edge being mounted to the exterior of the bar at an intermediate point, the intermediate point being at a position relative to the height of the container from the base frame, the arm structure extending outwardly from the first edge along its horizontal axis to a set distance to the opposite second edge; a bumper mechanism integrated into the opposite second edge at the set distance therein, the bumper mechanism for contacting the neck of the container causing the container to tilt forward as the container is loaded onto the base frame; a catch mechanism situated a predetermined distance from the opposite second edge

within the arm structure; a means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism with the top of the container; and a hand assembly being mounted upon the upper end of the bar such that the hand-cart can be moved into a forward and backward position upon the wheel means; and

the catch mechanism further comprises an internal cavity situated within the underside portion of the arm structure; the recess dimensioned to accommodate the circumference of the top of the container; and the internal cavity being situated from the first edge of the arm structure at a position which allows the top of the container to align directly underneath the internal cavity as the bottom of the container is placed on the base frame.

23. (new) A hand cart for lifting and transporting a container with a tapering neck at its upper end, the hand cart comprising:

a base frame having at least one wheel means for movement; a cradle for engaging the bottom of the container, the cradle being supported by the base frame; an elongated bar being defined by an upper end and a lower end; the lower end being securely attached to the base frame and the cradle; an arm structure being defined by a first edge, an opposite second edge, a side edge, an opposing side edge, and an upper surface overlaying an underside portion; the first edge being mounted to the exterior of the bar at an intermediate point, the intermediate point being at a position relative to the height of the container from the base frame, the arm structure extending outwardly from the first edge along its horizontal axis to a set distance to the opposite second edge; a bumper mechanism integrated into the opposite second edge at the set distance therein, the bumper mechanism for contacting the neck of the

container causing the container to tilt forward as the container is loaded onto the base frame; a catch mechanism situated a predetermined distance from the opposite second edge within the arm structure; a means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism with the top of the container; and a hand assembly being mounted upon the upper end of the bar such that the hand-cart can be moved into a forward and backward position upon the wheel means;

the catch mechanism further comprising:

an U-shape slotted hook situated within the arm structure; and the U-shape slotted hook dimensioned to accommodate the circumference of the top of the container the U-shaped hook extending vertically from the side edge or the opposing side edge of the arm structure at a an intermediate position which allows the hook to engage the neck of the container as the bottom of the container is placed on the base frame; and

the means for engaging and disengaging the catch mechanism further comprising:

the first edge of the arm structure being rotatably connected in a horizontal direction to exterior of the elongated bar such that the arm structure can rotate clockwise and counterclockwise along at least a thirty degree angle path to respectively engage and disengage the catch mechanism with the top of the container.